

The Speaker did the right thing to fire Christina Jeffrey, but what is shocking is that a person with these views could have been hired in the first place.

Are we moving ahead on unfunded mandates legislation without recognizing the impact it might have on clean air, on clean water, on civil rights, on disabilities, on health and safety? Am I correctly hearing that the new majority wants to exempt all Contract With America legislation in this legislation?

As we move ahead on the balanced budget amendment, which I have supported, does it not make sense to specify from where these cuts are coming? Do we really want to amend the Constitution to have a super majority on taxes? What if we are in a recession? What if we are in a war? Let us make this balanced budget amendment work.

Mr. Speaker, let us have open rules. Let us be offered alternatives. Let us participate in a bipartisan way to deal with these problems. Let us not make mistakes now that we will regret later.

WE MUST TAKE ACTION

(Mr. EVERETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, recent polls indicate that some 80 percent of the American people favor the balanced budget amendment. The people have sent their message to the people's House. Now it is time for the people's House to respond.

My colleagues, if we are sincere in our desire to get big government off the back of middle income Americans, then we should vote yes on a balanced budget amendment.

The balanced budget amendment is designed to produce results. It forces us to take action. It forces us to be responsible with the taxpayers' dollars. It forces us to do what this House has not done in 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, the time for stalling is past. Nearly \$5 trillion of debt placed upon our children and grandchildren demands a response. We must take action now. We must pass the balanced budget amendment.

WHITE HOUSE RESPONSE TO DISASTER IN CALIFORNIA

(Mr. TUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring recognition to the White House response to my call and the call of other Members of this House who represent areas in California that have been egregiously affected by the continuous pounding of severe Pacific storms in California. The total now is at 17 counties that have been affected.

Even as we speak, Mr. Speaker, here on the House floor, we understand that there are more storms coming in from

the West that are going to be affecting very deleteriously the counties in and throughout California.

My county, Los Angeles County, has been affected very, very much.

I just want to thank the White House for finally responding and declaring a Federal disaster, a declaration that will allow FEMA to come in and to provide additional help and additional provisions to the people in California who are suffering.

It seems just yesterday, Mr. Speaker, that we had to sign \$8.6 million for earthquake relief. Now we have floods in California.

We thank the White House for responding.

CHANGE IS HERE

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, change is here, and change is good.

After 40 years of one party's rule, last week, the new majority took the first critical steps to changing the House of Representatives.

More change is on the way. In the next month, we will vote on a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

We have heard gripes from some Members of the new minority about what is wrong with the balanced budget. We have heard excuses. We have heard complaints.

But after 40 years of Democrat leadership, we never had a true commitment to a balanced budget amendment. And we have not had a balanced budget in about 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want a new direction from the Congress. They want fiscal responsibility; they do not want to pay higher taxes but they do want less Federal spending.

Mr. Speaker, change is here and change is good. That is why we must pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution before this Congress is adjourned.

IN FAVOR OF THE CDBG ANTIPIRACY LEGISLATION

(Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, thousands of workers in my community got a major slap in the face last year where their employer told them their jobs would be moved to other parts of the country.

If this was not bad enough, these loyal employees had salt rubbed in their wounds a short time later, when it was learned that Federal Community Development Block Grant funds would be used to help move these jobs to other States.

This is something that should not happen. Using Federal funds to move

jobs from one area to another is a total waste of taxpayer money and an insult to the people who are losing their jobs.

Today I am introducing legislation that would add an antipiracy provision to the block grant law. It will prevent the use of these funds from being used to steal jobs.

As we look for ways to save Federal tax dollars and get a better bang for our buck, this is the perfect place to start.

THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this January, as we work for and with America, we will vote to put responsibility, accountability, and respectability back in the Congress by finally passing a balanced budget amendment.

Many on the Democrat side want us to specify budget cuts before they agree to it. I think they are just using this as an opportunity to invite their good friends, the special interests, to come in and save their favorite projects from elimination.

As we have seen in the past 40 years, we can debate all day about how to balance the budget and never actually do it.

We need to set the record straight. The balanced budget amendment is about discipline. We need a mechanism that forces the Congress to balance it every year.

For 40 years we tried it the other way. All we got was more spending and more taxes. Now it is time for Congress to live like everyone else in America, on a budget.

LINGERING QUESTIONS

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, there are lingering questions still unanswered in the controversy over the fired House historian.

First, what did Speaker GINGRICH know about her extreme views and when did he know it? The Speaker says he did not know Ms. Jeffrey once rejected a course on the Holocaust because it failed to present the Nazi point of view. Yet, Ms. Jeffrey's top aide claims he knew all along.

Second, Ms. Jeffrey has been outspoken on GOPAC. She says that GOPAC was founded as, and I quote, "a way of getting around campaign finance disclosure laws." And she has called for repeal of those very laws.

I think the American people have a right to know: Do the Republicans agree? Do they agree that GOPAC was founded as a way of ducking campaign finance disclosure? Do they agree that